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SERVICE DATE - SEPTEMBER 15, 2000

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 576X)

CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—
IN GUERNSEY COUNTY, OH

Decided: September 11, 2000

On January 11, 2000, a decision and notice of interim trail use or abandonment (NITU) was served in this proceeding, authorizing a 180-day period for the Cambridge-Guernsey County Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT). CIC wants to build a trail on a 7.79-mile portion of CSXT's Louisville Service Lane, Central Ohio Subdivision, between milepost BP-49.49 near Cambridge and milepost BP-41.70 at the end of the track at Gibson, in Guernsey County, OH. At CSXT's request, the negotiating period under the NITU was extended by decisions served June 16, and July 21, 2000. The latest extension is scheduled to expire on September 17, 2000.

On September 6, 2000, CSXT filed a request to further extend the negotiating period for an additional 60 days, until November 16, 2000. CSXT states that it has concluded a deal with CIC for a trail, but that additional time is needed to finalize the transaction.

CSXT is willing to continue trail use negotiations with CIC and an extension of the negotiating period will promote the establishment of trail use and rail banking consistent with the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d). Accordingly, the extension will be granted.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. CSXT's request to extend the NITU negotiating period is granted.
2. The negotiating period under the NITU is extended for an additional 60 days to November 16, 2000.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary